Aboriginal Relations

BUSINESS PLAN 2013-16

ACCOUNTABILITY STATEMENT

This business plan was prepared under my direction, taking into consideration the government's policy decisions as of February 13, 2013.

original signed by

Robin Campbell, Minister
February 19, 2013

THE MINISTRY

The ministry consists of the Department of Aboriginal Relations. Within the department's budget, funding is provided to the Metis Settlements Appeal Tribunal, which is accountable to the minister. The Metis Settlements Appeal Tribunal is a quasi-judicial body that promotes self-governance, certainty and respect within the Metis Settlements through adjudications, mediation and education.

Aboriginal Relations supports Alberta's government-to-government relationships with First Nations, coordinates the province's relationship with the Metis Settlements General Council and the Métis Nation of Alberta Association, including administration of Alberta's unique Metis Settlements legislation, and supports economic partnerships to promote the well-being of Aboriginal people. The ministry coordinates provincial government activities related to First Nations consultation on land management and resource development, administers the First Nations Consultation Capacity Investment Program, and manages provincial land claim obligations under the Natural Resources Transfer Agreement.

Aboriginal Relations' mission is to lead the development of government-wide policies, strategies and partnerships with Aboriginal organizations, governments and industry to support strong and vibrant Aboriginal families and communities fully participating in Alberta's economic future, and relationships contributing to world-leading resource stewardship. The ministry's core business is Aboriginal relationships, policies and initiatives.

Programs and services delivered by the ministry will be reviewed for relevance, effectiveness and efficiency in accordance with the Government of Alberta's *Results-based Budgeting Act*.

A more detailed description of Aboriginal Relations and its programs and initiatives can be found at www.aboriginal.alberta.ca.

This business plan is aligned with the government's goals as set out in the *Government of Alberta Strategic Plan*.

GOALS, PRIORITY INITIATIVES AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES

As a result of the ministry's review of its goals, environment, opportunities and challenges, a number of priority initiatives have been identified. Focused agenda items, the six specific areas where government will focus its attention over the next three years, are identified with a ✱. Additional government commitments to Albertans are identified with a ✓.

Goal One: Aboriginal communities and people fully participate in Alberta's economy and society

The ministry provides leadership on Aboriginal policy and oversees agreements between the Government of Alberta and Aboriginal governments and organizations. By building relationships with other ministries, Aboriginal communities and organizations, industry, governments and other partners, the ministry strengthens economic and social opportunities for Aboriginal people in Alberta. Aboriginal Relations provides advice, guidance and specialized knowledge to other ministries, governments and industry and works with Aboriginal communities and organizations to support the transfer of knowledge, skills and tools. The ministry also administers Alberta's Metis Settlements legislation and its associated governance entities, and the First Nations Development Fund. The ministry's activities support effective relationships, policies and initiatives as well as healthy, vibrant Aboriginal communities and people.

Priority Initiatives:

✱1.1 Work with Aboriginal, government and industry partners to increase Aboriginal participation in the workforce and the economy.

✱1.2 Support Aboriginal economic development through dialogue and engagement to increase Aboriginal capacity to participate in the economy, and help to strengthen Alberta's competitiveness by working with Aboriginal communities on new initiatives to provide for economic opportunities and improve socio-economic outcomes.

✓1.3 Lead the Government of Alberta in enhancing collaboration with First Nations through renewed mechanisms for the premier and ministers to engage with First Nations on a government-to-government basis.

✓1.4 Strengthen strategic partnerships with Aboriginal organizations, governments, industry and others to address barriers and improve educational outcomes for Aboriginal people, including implementing the Memorandum of Understanding on First Nations Education, in collaboration with the Government of Canada and the Assembly of Treaty Chiefs in Alberta.

✓1.5 Support improved outcomes for urban Aboriginal people through policy development and collaboration with other ministries, Aboriginal organizations, other governments and private and non-profit sector partners, including the development of an Urban Aboriginal Framework.

1.6 Work with the Metis Settlements General Council to implement long-term governance and funding arrangements that focus on the objectives of effective governance, enhanced accountability and sustainability.

1.7 Champion and promote initiatives to support positive social changes for Aboriginal women, through collaboration with other ministries and dialogue and engagement with Aboriginal communities and organizations.

1.8 Administer the First Nations Development Fund to support economic, social and community development projects.

1.9 Through the Alberta/Métis Nation of Alberta Association (MNAA) Framework Agreement, work with the MNAA and other ministries to increase economic opportunities and enhance community and individual well-being of Métis people.

Performance Measure	Last Actual 2011-12	Target 2013-14	Target 2014-15	Target 2015-16
1.a Number of Aboriginal strategic economic development initiatives, partnerships and capacity building projects	34	34	34	34

Goal Two: Alberta's coordinated approach to Aboriginal consultation and land claims enhances resource development certainty

The province has a duty to consult when constitutionally protected rights may be adversely affected by Crown decisions on land management and resource development. The ministry oversees the development of Government of Alberta policies on Aboriginal consultation and provides input into legislation and regulations that affect the rights of Aboriginal communities and supports other ministries implementing the First Nations Consultation Policy on Land Management and Resource Development and associated Guidelines. The ministry leads the revision of the First Nations Consultation Policy by engaging with First Nations, industry, municipal and other stakeholders, and supports First Nations capacity to participate in consultations. It also leads the development of GeoData maps with First Nations' input to help guide decisions related to consultation on resource development projects, facilitate more consistent notification for consultation, and help satisfy the Crown's duty to consult. Lastly, the ministry coordinates Alberta's participation in settling treaty land entitlement claims. These initiatives support land management and resource development certainty, increased First Nations capacity and greater economic competitiveness.

Priority Initiatives:

✱ 2.1 Implement the revised Alberta's First Nations Consultation Policy on Land Management and Resource Development to increase the effectiveness of the consultation process.

✓ 2.2 Work with First Nations on a government-to-government basis, and with industry and other ministries to better coordinate and support resource development and land management consultation activities.

2.3 Work with other levels of government to identify and address consultation challenges.

2.4 Support consultation capacity and work with First Nations to enhance their participation in land management and resource development consultations.

2.5 Work with other ministries, the federal government and First Nations towards resolution of land-related negotiations, in particular treaty land entitlement claims for which Alberta has an obligation under the Natural Resources Transfer Agreement.

Performance Measure	Last Actual 2011-12	Target 2013-14	Target 2014-15	Target 2015-16
2.a Percentage of First Nations with a GeoData map developed to support the consultation process	0%	30%	60%	90%

OPERATIONAL PLAN

(thousands of dollars)	Comparable					
	2011-12 Actual	2012-13 Budget	2012-13 Forecast	**2013-14 Estimate**	2014-15 Target	2015-16 Target
Operational Expense						
Ministry Support Services	3,297	3,935	4,188	**4,143**	4,143	4,143
First Nations and Métis Relations	13,785	14,972	14,972	**21,139**	21,139	22,139
First Nations Development Fund	114,022	120,000	120,000	**129,500**	138,000	143,500
Metis Settlements Ombudsman	626	700	700	-	-	-
Metis Settlements Appeal Tribunal	1,102	1,197	1,197	**1,197**	1,197	1,197
Consultation and Land Claims	10,054	11,150	10,897	**9,847**	10,647	9,747
Policy and Planning	989	1,267	1,267	**1,202**	1,202	1,202
Land and Legal Settlement	-	-	-	-	-	8,400
Total	143,875	153,221	153,221	**167,028**	176,328	190,328

CAPITAL PLAN

Capital Spending						
Ministry Support Services	-	25	25	**25**	25	25
Total	-	25	25	**25**	25	25